AL-HIDAYAH No: 10
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THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION AND ITS BENEFITS

The universe has been created by the ruler and the creator who is one, has no comparison, and is eternally pre-existent. He has power over everything and knowledge of all things. None of his actions are devoid of wisdom. Among his creations are the skies and earth, mountains and trees, rivers and oceans, humans and jinns. He brings up everyone and feeds them all. He has no offspring. It is a defect for him to have offspring. He has no need to have a helper. He grants offspring to whoever desires.

He has many graces, bounties and mercies. He has granted excellence to humans and has exalted them over the rest of the creation. He has granted them understanding and intellect. Humans have control over the seas, land and the air. He created humans so that they become viceroy's of their Ruler and Creator on this earth. Man is the rulers over all life-form on the earth and he uses them according to his needs and understanding. Being more understanding than the other creatures, it is necessary and compulsory on humans to recognise their Creator, understand His being and attributes, engross themselves in His worship and remembrance in preparation for the life after death and think and worry about what is going to happen to them after death.

It is a grace of the Ruler and Creator that He did not ask man to search for guidance relying on his own intellect but He Himself sent messengers to guide them. They educated man to believe in His Ruler and Creator. To confess his being and attributes and to worship Him. The messengers showed the correct way of worship and the necessary things that a human being has to do and the things which are compulsory to refrain from which are not acceptable for man. They showed us all the rules and regulations and etiquettes of eating and drinking and attitire so that the humans must differentiate their way of life from that of animals.

Now look at man's stupidity that he has forgotten his Creator. A great number of people invented their own ways of worship in contrast to the teachings of the prophets. Some people began to regard certain personalities as the Creator's offspring, and a number of people began to ascribe partners to the Creator in their worship and began prostrating in front of mortals. This is not only against common sense and understanding but is also against the teachings of the prophets. Amongst the religions which are flourishing in the world are Islaam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and the Zoroastrian creed. It is a well-known fact that everybody knows that the one who created man is also the one who sent messengers and the messengers showed the ways of worship. A person who worships according to the ways shown by them will be granted salvation. Now it has to be seen that whoever has chosen a religion and by acting according to its teachings is hoping for salvation, what proof does such a person have with regard to the truthfulness of his religion, and that this religion has been sent down by the Creator?

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Everybody knows that the necessity of religion is to gain a good life after death. The livelihood of the world, its wealth and sustenance and the prosperity of business and of their failure are worldly things. People of all religions are eating and earning. There are rich and poor among the people of all religions. When we have accepted and understood that religion is compulsory for the life after death then it is also understood that only that religion is to be accepted which will bring salvation and success in the life after death.

This world is a place of trials, in it are the people who believe in the Ruler and Creator and also those who refuge to believe in His existence. There are people calling towards monotheism and there are polytheists who worship things other than God. There are oppressors and oppressed. There are people with good actions and there are others with bad actions. Through the intellect and understanding, every human being has to quest for that religion which will benefit him in the life after death. To follow on the footsteps of one's ancestors and cultural traditions of one's fellow-country men, and to follow family traditions without proof, is an act which does not make any sense.

It is the most worrying fact if the religion which we are following does not save us from the punishment in the life after death, since there is no chance of returning from there. Hence the followers of every religion have to think very deeply and look for proof as to whether their religion is right, whether it is accepted by God? Will it grant them success? They should think about it in solitude, converse with friends and relatives and also ask the elders of their religion whether the religion which they are following will benefit them after death. If so, how can one be sure of this? Have they received this religion from the Creator or has it been invented by man? If it has been invented by humans, then how can we get success from it? If it is sent by the Creator then what is the evidence to prove this?

We thought deeply and extensively and come to the conclusion that Islaam is the only religion from Allaah which He sent through his last messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) who is the messenger and the prophet for the whole mankind. A number of people praise the Qur'an and Muhammad (peace be upon him). They profess that Islaam to be true and right, but in greed for worldly wealth and fame, refuse to accept Islaam. Is it common sense to take eternal punishment in the hereafter, for a little worldly wealth?

We call all non-Muslims as a gesture of goodwill to accept Islaam. Worry and think individually about your life after death. We urge the responsible people of all religions to accept Islaam. Leave aside nationalism and worry about the life after death. Do not think it a weakness to accept Islam, especially after its truth has been made evident. Do not ruin your Hereafter for the fear of worldly wealth and fame.

By: Mufti Aa-Shiq Elaa-Li- of Madinah Munawarah

For Notice Board Also

To be on our mailing list write to:
MUFTI A.H. ELIAS
P.O. BOX 131264
NORTHMEAD
1511

JET PRINTES, TEL: (011) 331-2371